

C1
Cov's
D2

for supporting samples to be analyzed, means for supporting reagents, and means for taking determined quantities of samples and of reagents and for injecting the quantities taken into the reaction vessels, together with means for washing the vessels, means for reading the results, and means for feeding sets of reaction vessels and for ejecting sets of used vessels, the apparatus including means for forming a temporary dark chamber that is proof against external light, said dark chamber having photometric means for measuring the intensity of light and a vessel including walls in the form of a vessel for receiving a sample to be tested, a test reagent, and a substrate coupled with a chemiluminescent substance, and also a filling opening, wherein the walls are proof against any light emitted by the chemiluminescent substance, apart from a window for reading the intensity of any light emitted by the reaction mixture formed by the sample to be tested, the reagent, and the substrate, and wherein the window corresponds to the filling opening of the vessel and wherein the window is surrounded by a substantially plane zone against which a light-proof shoe is pressed, and a light source for illuminating, on command, the outside of a dark chamber formed temporarily by the walls of the vessel and a photometric means so as to enable the dark chamber to be tested for light-tightness, the immunological test being rejected if the photometric means detect light emitted by the light source.

REMARKS

Claims 1 and 4-15 are currently pending in this application. Claim 11 has been amended into independent form and incorporates the limitations of previously-amended claim 5. Reexamination and reconsideration of the application are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



Billie J. Smith
Reg. No. 36,940

Docket No.: 72211-9011-00
Michael Best & Friedrich LLP
100 East Wisconsin Avenue
Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53202-4108
(414) 271-6560

Appendix – Marked Up Rewritten Claims

11. (Twice Amended) Automatic apparatus for immunological assay, the apparatus comprising means for supporting, guiding, and stepwise displacement of vessels, or of sets of reaction vessels along a path having a predetermined number of positions, means for supporting samples to be analyzed, means for supporting reagents, and means for taking determined quantities of samples and of reagents and for injecting the quantities taken into the reaction vessels, together with means for washing the vessels, means for reading the results, and means for feeding sets of reaction vessels and for ejecting sets of used vessels, the apparatus including means for forming a temporary dark chamber that is proof against external light, said dark chamber having photometric means for measuring the intensity of light and a vessel including walls in the form of a vessel for receiving a sample to be tested, a test reagent, and a substrate coupled with a chemiluminescent substance, and also a filling opening, wherein the walls are proof against any light emitted by the chemiluminescent substance, apart from a window for reading the intensity of any light emitted by the reaction mixture formed by the sample to be tested, the reagent, and the substrate, and wherein the window corresponds to the filling opening of the vessel and wherein the window is surrounded by a substantially plane zone against which a light-proof shoe is pressed, and [Apparatus according to claim 5, including] a light source for illuminating, on command, the outside of a dark chamber formed temporarily by the walls of the vessel and a photometric means so as to enable the dark chamber to be tested for light-tightness, the immunological test being rejected if the photometric means detect light emitted by the light source.